

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.
2. (currently amended) An isolated RNA of 18 to 24 nucleotides encoded by the nucleic acid of claim 1.
3. (canceled)
4. (currently amended) A gene encoding the nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said gene is maternally transferred by a cell to at least one daughter cell of said cell.
5. (currently amended) The RNA of claim 2, wherein expression of said RNA is capable of promoting expression of a target human gene.
6. (canceled)
7. (currently amended) The RNA of claim 2 wherein said encoded RNA is capable of modulating expression of a target human gene.
8. (currently amended) The RNA of claim 2 wherein the RNA is at least 50% complementary to a binding site sequence of 18 to 24 nucleotides of a target human gene and wherein the binding site sequence is located in an untranslated region of RNA encoded by said target gene.
9. (currently amended) The RNA of claim 8 wherein the binding site sequence is located in the 3'untranslated region of the RNA encoded by said target human gene.
10. (currently amended) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 1.
11. (withdrawn) A method of selectively inhibiting translation of at least one gene, comprising introducing the vector of claim 10 into a cell.
12. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 11 and wherein said introducing comprises utilizing RNAi pathway.
13. (previously amended) A gene expression inhibition system comprising the vector of claim 10 and a means for inserting said vector into a cell.
14. (currently amended) A probe comprising the nucleic acid of claim 1.
15. (withdrawn) A method of selectively detecting expression of at least one gene, comprising using the probe of claim 14.

16. (original) A gene expression detection system comprising: the probe of claim 14; and a gene expression detector functional to selectively detect expression of at least one gene.

17. (new) An isolated RNA of about 50 to 77 nucleotides encoded by the nucleic acid of claim 1.

18. (new) An isolated RNA of about 22 nucleotides encoded by the nucleic acid of claim 1.

19. (new) An isolated nucleic acid complementary to the nucleic acid of claim 1.

20. (new) An isolated nucleic acid complementary to the nucleic acid of claim 2.

21. (new) An isolated nucleic acid complementary to the nucleic acid of claim 18.